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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,698	10/23/2003	Atsuhiko Shibasaki	244299US2	9731
22850	7590	04/20/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			YOHA, CONNIE C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/690,698

Applicant(s)

SHIBASAKI, ATSUHIKO

Examiner

Connie C. Yoha

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
**CONNIE C. YOHA**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:  
  
Papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) have been placed of record in the file.  
  
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on 10/23/03 was considered.
2. Claims 1-4 are presented for examination.

***Specification***

**Title**

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shokouhi et al, Pat. No. 6249458.

With regard to claim 1, Shokouhi discloses a memory device comprising: a plurality of word lines (fig. 3, WL0-WLY), a plurality of bit lines (fig. 3, BL0-BLX) and a

plurality of memory cells (fig. 3, 125), said plurality of memory cells each being connected to one of the plurality of word lines and one of said plurality of bit lines (fig. 3); a Y decoder (fig. 3, 850) configured to drive said plurality of bit lines; and a disconnecting device (fig. 3, 840) provided between at least one of said plurality of bit lines (fig. 3, BL0-BLX) , and said Y decoder (fig. 3, 850), and being configured to electrically disconnect said at least one of said plurality of bit lines and said Y decoder (col. 8, line 57-64) (also with regard to claim 2 and 3).

With regard to claim 4, Shokouhi discloses a plurality of memory cells (fig. 3, 125), each being connected to one of a plurality of word lines (fig. 3, WL0-WLY) and one of a plurality of bit lines (fig. 3, BL0-BLX); a Y decoder (fig. 3, 850) configured to drive said plurality of bit lines; and a charge pump circuit (fig. 3, 810-A, 810-B) and a port circuit (fig. 2, ISP circuit 300), each being connected to said Y decoder through a switching circuit.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shioyama, Pat. No. 6813186.

With regard to claim 1, Shioyama discloses a memory device comprising: a plurality of word lines (fig. 1, WL), a plurality of bit lines (fig. 1, BL) and a plurality of memory cells (fig. 1, M1), said plurality of memory cells each being connected to one of the plurality of word lines and one of said plurality of bit lines (fig. 1); a Y decoder (fig. 1, YD) configured to drive said plurality of bit lines; and a disconnecting device (fig. 1, P2) provided between at least one of said plurality of bit lines, and said Y decoder, and being configured to electrically disconnect said at least one of said plurality of bit lines and said Y decoder (col. 5, line 64-67) (also with regard to claim 2 and 3).

With regard to claim 4, Shioyama discloses a plurality of memory cells (fig. 1, M1), each being connected to one of a plurality of word lines (fig. 1, WL) and one of a plurality of bit lines (fig. 1, BL); a Y decoder (fig. 1, YD) configured to drive said plurality of bit lines; and a charge pump circuit (fig. 1, PV2) and a port circuit (the capacitance of the load applied to the switch circuits P2 and P4, col. 8, line 50-col. 9, line 7) each being connected to said Y decoder through a switching circuit.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure. Norman et al (6515936) and Kobayashi et al (5428568) disclose a memory device having switching device and Y decoder.

7. When responding to the office action, Applicants= are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.
8. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see MPEP 710.02 (b)).
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is (571) 272-1799. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 PM. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0956.
10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov> should you have questions on access to the Private Pair system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2827



C. Yoha

April 2005



CONNIE C. YOH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER